

# Carbon Monoxide Safety In The Home

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arbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, deadly gas. Because you can't see, taste or smell it, CO can kill you before you know it's there.

Today's more energy-efficient, airtight home designs contribute to the problem by trapping CO-polluted air inside the home. And a home has many potential sources of carbon monoxide.

What is carbon monoxide ? Why is carbon monoxide so dangerous?



The great danger of CO is its attraction to hemoglobin in the bloodstream. CO is breathed in through your lungs, and bonds with hemoglobin in your blood, displacing the oxygen which cells need to function.

When CO is present in the air, it rapidly accumulates in the blood. It will eventually displace enough oxygen in your system to suffocate you from the inside out, resulting in brain damage or death.



Where does carbon monoxide occur ?

Carbon Monoxide is a common by-product of appliances that run on flammable fuel, and emissions from the burning of fossil fuels.

Carbon monoxide can be emitted by gas or oil furnaces, propane refrigerators or clothes dryers, water heaters, fireplaces, wood stoves, charcoal grills, gas ranges and space heaters.

Also be on guard against a clogged chimney or improper venting, which can trap the deadly gas in your home.



How can I protect myself from carbon monoxide poisoning ? The US. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends installing at least one

carbon monoxide detector per household. Today's detectors use Biometric technology, which simulates your body's response to CO, and can detect levels as low as 0.01%.



Where do I put my carbon monoxide detector ? Near the sleeping area, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, which recommends at least one detector per household. A second detector located near the home's heating source adds an extra measure of safety.

A second detector located near your home's heating source would add an extra measure of safety.